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His Majesties
GRACIOUS
SPEECH

To both Houses of
PARLIAMENT;

Together with the
L. Chancellors,

In Christ-Church-Hall in Oxford,

On Tuesday, October 10. 1665.



LONDON:

Printed by *John Bill* and *Christopher Barker*, Printers to the
Kings most Excellent Majesty, 1665.

CUM PRIVILEGIO.

REI

His Majesty's

OF COMMONS

SPEECH

of the House of

PARLIAMENT

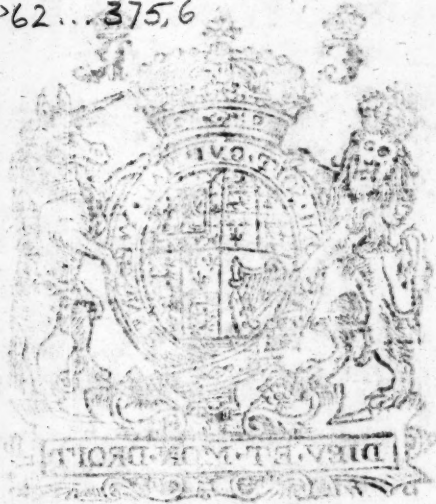
Together with the

I. Chancellors

In Christ Church Hall in Oxford

On the 15th of June 1865

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LONDON:


Printed by John E. and Christopher Barker, Printers to the House of Commons, 1865.

CAMBRIDGE

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HIS MAJESTIES
GRACIOUS
S P E E C H
To both HOUSES of
PARLIAMENT.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

 *I* Am confident you all believe, that if it had not been absolutely necessary to consult with you, I would not have called you together at this time, when the Contagion hath so spread it self over so many parts of the Kingdom. I take it for a good Omen to see so good an appearance this day, and I doubt not, every day will add to your number; and I give you all My thanks for your compliance so far with My desires.

The truth is, as I entred upon this War by your advice and encouragement; so I do desire, that you may as frequently as is possible, receive Information of the Conduct, and Effects of it, and that I may have the continuance of your cheerful Supply for the carrying it on. I will not deny to you, that it hath proved more chargeable then I could imagine it would have been: The addition they still made to their Fleets, beyond their first purpose, made it unavoidably necessary for me to make proportionable Preparations, which God hath hitherto blessed with success in all Encounters. And as the Enemy have used their utmost endeavours by

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Calumnies and false suggestions, to make themselves Friends, and to perswade others to assist them against Us; so I have not been wanting to encourage those Princes who have been wronged by the Dutch, to recover their own by force; and in order thereunto, have assisted the Bishop of Munster with a very great sum of ready Money, and am to continue a supply to him, who is now in the bowels of their Countrey with a Powerful Army.

These Issues, which I may tell you, have been made with very good Conduct and Husbandry, (nor indeed do I know that anything hath been spent, that could have been well and safely saved) I say, this expence will not suffer you to wonder, that the great Supply which you gave me for this War, in so bountifull a proportion, is upon the matter already spent: So that I must not only expect an assistance from you, to carry on this War; but such an assistance, as may enable Me to defend My Self and you, against a more Powerful Neighbour, if he shall prefer the Friendship of the Dutch before mine.

I told you, when I entred upon this War, That I had not such a Brutal appetite, as to make War for War sake. I am still of the same mind: I have been ready to receive any Propositions that France hath thought fit to offer to that end; but hitherto nothing hath been offered worthy My acceptance; nor is the Dutch less insolent, though I know no advantage they have had, but the continuance of the Contagion: God Almighty, I hope, will shortly deprive them of that encouragement.

The Chancellour will inform you of all the Particulars.

THE
LORD CHANCELLORS
S P E E C H

To both Houses of
PARLIAMENT.

My Lords, and you the Knights, Citizens and Burgeses of the House of Commons:



He King is not content, you see, to leave you to your selves to make a state of this War, and the success that hath attended it, by your own observation, and the general communication of all that hath fallen out, which in truth hath left few men ignorant of any thing, who have had any curiosity to inform themselves; but takes care that you be informed by Himself, that you may know all that He knows, that so you may be able to give Him your Counsel upon the clearest evidence.

In order to this, it will not I hope be unseasonable or ingrateful to you, to refresh your memory, by looking some years backwards, even to the time of His Majesties happy Restauration, that we may take the better prospect of the posture we are now in, and how we have come into it.

What inclinations His Majesty brought home with Him, to live in Amity with His neighbours of *Holland*, though He had received Indignities enough from them, and in truth had been little less proscribed there, then He had been in *England*; needs no other manifestation, then that He chose that place to imbarque Himself in, when He was pressed by the two neighbour Kings, from whom He had received more civilities, to have made use of their Ports. It cannot be denied, but that His reception in *Holland* was with great civility and lustre, and a sufficient evidence that they had a full sense of the high Honour His Majesty had vouchsafed to them, and the departure from thence was with equal and mutual satisfaction in each other; which made many men the more wonder, that albeit the Ambassadors who were to follow, had been nominated before the King left the *Hague*, there was so long an Interval before their Arrival here, that the two neighbour Kings, and many other Princes had finished their Ambassies of Congratulation, before we had heard any more from the United Provinces.

You all remember how long it was before the Armies were disbanded, and the Fleets paid off; during which time, His Majesty lived upon his Credit, and easily contracted a great Debt for the meer
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support of himself and his household, which was not so easily discharged afterwards. There was one thing that exceedingly surprised him, when he found (which will be incredible to Posterity) that a triumphant Nation, that had made it self terrible to Christendom by having fought more Battels then all the Neighbour Kingdoms and States together had ever done in so few years, and seemed to be in a posture ready to fight them over again; that had so long Reigned over the Ocean in formidable Fleets; should at the time of his Majesties happy Return, as if on the sudden all their Arms had been turned into Plough-shares, and their Swords into Pruning-hooks, not have in all their Magazines, in all the Stores, Arms enough to put into the hands of Five thousand men, nor Provisions enough to set out Ten new Ships to Sea. Which his Majesty did not desire should be known to his best neighbours, how little soever he suspected their Affections; nor did indeed so much as make it known to his Parliament, but made it his first care, without the least noise, and with all imaginable shifts, to provide for the full supply of those Important Magazines and Stores, which have been ever since replenished as they ought to be.

He had not the least imagination that any of his Neighbours would wantonly affect to interrupt the happy Calm that he, and themselves enjoyed; and therefore resolved to retrench the vast expence of the Navy, under which he found the Nation even to groan; and out of that good husbandry to provide for more necessary Disbursements: Yet that the world might not think that he had abandoned the Ocean, and that the memory of the Glorious Actions the *English* had so lately performed upon it, might not vanish in an instant, after he had provided such a Guard as the Narrow Seas never ought to be without, in the Spring he sent a strong Fleet against the Pirates of *Algiers* and *Tripoly* (who had grown to that strength and boldness, that they interrupted the whole Trade of Christendom) as the only enemies he would choose to have.

It was a Design of great Glory, and equal Expence, crowned in the end by God Almighty, with the Success we could wish, and with an intire submission to the *English* Flag, and as great security to all His Majesties Subjects in their Trade, as the engagement and honour of Infidels can give; and this Agreement ratified with all formality (the like whereof had never been before) by the *Great Turk* himself.

Hereupon the King again renewed his resolution for a further retrenchment of his Naval expence, even to the lessening of the Guard in the Narrow Seas; His Merchants in all places receiving less interruption in their Trade, then they had in any former time undergone: until he received Intelligence from the *Straights*, that the faithless people of *Algiers*, who had so lately submitted to him, had committed new Insolencies upon some of his Subjects, or rather upon Foreign persons taken by his Subjects into their possession, and which the *Turks* pretended they might do without violation of the Treaty: But His Majesty resolving to admit none of those Elucidations, lost no time in sending a new strong Fleet into the *Mediterranean*, to chastise those perfidious Pirates; and after a chargeable War made upon

upon them for near or full twelve moneths, and after having taken several of their ships from them, and upon the matter blocking them up in their harbours, He received a second submission from them with better and more advantageous conditions then the former.

I must not omit one circumstance; That about this time, the *Dutch*, who received much more prejudice and damage from the *Turks* then the *English* had done, besought his Majesty that He would once more send a Fleet into those Seas against those Pirats, and that it might upon all occasions Joyn with one they were likewise ready to send out to the same Christian end, and for the utter extirpation of those Sea-Robbers; and within a very short time after the *English* Fleet was gone, they likewise sent *De Ruyter* with a good Fleet thither, which was so far from any conjunction with us, that when our ships chased any *Algier-men* near them, they never offered to obstruct their flight, but quickly made it manifest, that they rather brought money with them to buy a dishonourable and disadvantageous Peace, then to make a War upon them.

Matters standing thus; The Kings Fleet being gone into the Straights against the *Turkish* Pirats, and there remaining few ships in the Narrow Seas; we began every day to hear of Depredations by the *Dutch* upon our Merchants in all parts. Instead of delivering up the Island of *Poleeroon* in the *East-Indies* (as by the Treaty they ought to have done) They by their Naval power in those parts hindered us from Trading there, and would not suffer our Ships to take in their Lading of such Merchandise as the Factors had provided and made ready for their freight, upon pretence that those parts where the Merchandise was ready to be imbarqued, were in the Dominions of some Princes whom they had declared to be their enemies, and so they would not suffer any Traffique to be maintained with them. And they published the like Declaration, and challenged the same Sovereignty in *Africa*, and by virtue thereof would not suffer our Ships to Trade upon that Coast, where we had a Trade long before the *Dutch* had any footing in those parts.

These insolencies made that noise in the world, that the *English* Merchants felt the effects of it in all places, till it reached the ears of the Parliament, which in *April* was twelve moneths, presented the same to his Majesty, and besought him that He would take some speedy and effectual course for the Redress of those wrongs, Dishonours, and Indignities, which were the greatest Obstructions of our Trade; and declared, that in the prosecution thereof they would with their Lives and Fortunes assist his Majesty against all oppositions whatsoever.

My Lords and Gentlemen, You very well remember, that though his Majesty was very well pleased with the great Zeal you shewed for the advancement of Trade, He was far from resolving to make a War upon the warmth of that Declaration, but told you that He would examine and peruse the particular Complaints which had been represented to his Parliament, and would thereupon demand justice and reparation from the *States-General*; which Demand he appointed his Minister residing there, to make in a short time after. What effect that Candid way of proceeding found, is enough known to the

world. In stead of other application, they declare themselves wonderfully offended with the Declaration of the Paliament, with many insolent expressions suitable to the manners of a Commonwealth. They gave present Orders for equipping a very great Fleet, and the raising many Land-souldiers, making greater preparations for war, then they had done in many years before. They had made a complaint to his Majesty, that a Captain of one of the ships which his Majesty had lent to the Royal Company, had in his voyage thither, taken a Fort belonging to them near *Cape verte*, for which they demanded satisfaction. The King assured them, that he had not the least Commission or Authority from Him for so doing; that He expected him home very speedily, and then he should be sure to undergo that punishment which the nature of his Offence required, when the matter should be examined, and they should be sure to receive full Reparation. This satisfied them not, but in great fury they resolve to send forthwith a strong Fleet to *Guiny*, and granted a Commission (which they took care to publish) to the Commander in chief, to make war upon the *English* in those parts, and to do them all the mischief they could.

The King found himself now obliged, in what strait soever, to provide for the protection of his Subjects in those parts, and for the support of that Trade, which I doubt is not enough taken to heart, and the value thereof not enough understood; and in order thereunto, with great speed caused a Fleet to be made ready for that expedition, under the Command of his Highness Prince *Rupert*, who was under sail for the voyage; when his Majesty found it necessary to stop the Prince his further prosecution of it, upon good intelligence that the *Dutch* had appointed their Admiral with a Fleet of fifty Sail, to convey the other Fleet designed for *Guiny* through the Channel, in contempt of his Majesty, who had a very small Fleet in readines; and that *De Ruyter* was likewise sent out of the *Straights* from prosecuting the *Turks*, to make war upon the *English* in *Guiny*, when at the same time they had earnestly pressed the King upon many professions of desire to prevent a war, that Prince *Rupert's* Fleet might stay in Harbour, as theirs should do, till some means might be found for an accommodation of all Differences. And in truth, this very difficult Stratagem of pretending one thing, and intending another; of promising with all solemnity, and never resolving to perform; of swearing this day not to do a thing, when they had served their turn by having done it yesterday, that no body could know, is the highest Pinacle of their Wisdom of State, by which they govern their affairs, and delude their neighbours.

The Winds were not favourable to this triumphant design: And now the King found the value of the Vote, and Declaration of His Parliament, it was a Rich and a Massie Vote, which in a short time He coined into Two hundred thousand pounds ready money in the Chamber of the City of *London*; with which, he gave Order forthwith to make ready more Ships; and the *Duke* going himself to the Fleet, by His indefatigable industry, with incredible expedition, added so many good Ships to those under the Command of Prince *Rupert*, that in *November* he put himself on Board the Fleet, resolving

to stop the *Dutch*, if the Wind gave them leave to pursue their former Resolution, which from the time the Duke was known to be at Sea, they fairly declined, and were content rather to be safe in their own Harbours, then to look to the Security of their Merchants; It was high time now to seize upon as many of their Ships as came in our way, to satisfy the Damages We had reason to believe We should sustain from *De Ruyters* expedition into *Guiny* with the Commission mentioned before: but there was not the Lading of one Ship sold or disposed of, till his Majesty received full Information of *De Ruyters* having begun the War upon the Coast of *Africa*, by seizing upon Our Ships, taking Our Forts, and committing all the Acts of Hostility, which his Commission directed him unto; His Majesty likewise at the same time receiving new Advertisement of their refusal to deliver up the Island of *Poleoone* to him, which they were bound to by their Treaty. And will you not wonder after all this, at the Confidence of these men? and more, that any Neighbour Prince should have that confidence in them, as to declare, that the King our Master is the Aggressor, that he first began the War?

From this time the War began to be more in Earnest, and to be carried on at another Expence. Though His Royal Highness ventured himself in *November*, in a Fleet consisting of a little more then fifty Ships, to stop the *Dutch* from passing through the Channel; Yet in *April* (which was within few days after your Prorogation, and the end of your last Session) he went again to Sea with a much stronger Fleet, and more proportionate to the great preparations the Enemy had made; and even after he was gone to Sea, upon great additions of strength every day made by the *Dutch*, more good ships were sent to reinforce the Fleet; Insomuch, as upon that glorious Third of *June*, when they had the courage to visit our Coasts, after the Duke had in vain called upon them at their own doors, and took many of their Merchants Ships in their sight, the *English* Fleet consisted of very few less then One hundred Sail. The Action, and the Blessing of that day, hath been celebrated in all the Churches in *England*, and in the hearty devotions of all true *English*-men; and therefore I shall no more of it here; save only, That whether the Publique Joy then, even upon the solemn Thanksgiving-day, was superiour to the Universal consternation that spread it self over the Nation before, I appeal to the breasts of all here present: We who had the honour to be near the King at that time, observed him to be in that agony that cannot be expressed, an agony himself could not have long endured, even when by all the Intelligence he received hourly from the Coast, he had reason to assure himself of the Victory. In that great action, we sunk, burned, and took Eighteen good ships of War, whereof half were the best they had, with the loss of one single small ship of Ours, but of many Noble and Gallant persons, of too much value to be ventured (if there had not been a greater Venture) against such trash: and whose memories ought ever to be preserved and extolled, and made precious to posterity.

No diligence was omitted, but all imaginable expedition used in refreshing, repairing, and setting out the Fleet again; In order to which, the King himself made a journey thither, and stayed till he saw all ready and fit to Sail: but then, no intreaty, no importunity, could

could prevail with him to venture His Brother again; though His Family, and all preparations for the Voyage were still on Board. His Majesty too well remembred, and still felt the impressions he had undergone the Third of *June*; and having got his Brother into His arms again, he would not return without him, committing the charge of the Fleet to the Earl of *Sandwich*, who had acted so good a part in it.

Within few days after the beginning of *July*, the Earl of *Sandwich* went again to the Coast of *Holland*, with a Fleet in no degree inferior to the former, and Rode before the *Texel* to invite the *Dutch* to a new Engagement, they having used all the Arts at home to conceal the loss and dishonour they had undergone, and pretended to be very ready and sollicitous for another Battel, when there was no appearance of their purpose to come out: And upon sure intelligence that the *East-India* Fleet was coming about by the North, he received Orders to go for *Norway*, upon such encouragement as was not made good, so that he was disappointed of the expectation he had very reasonably carried with him thither, and at a season when that Climate gives little encouragement to abide in those Seas. I am not yet to enlarge upon that matter, till I hear a better account from some of our friends: however, though he could not meet with their whole Fleet, as he endeavoured to do; yet he hath had the good fortune in two Encounters to take Eight of their great Ships of War, Two of their best *East-India* Ships, and about Twenty of their Merchants Ships, all under the protection of their Fleet, or ought to have been; and was then by Tempest, and other Reasons, which no wisdom of his could prevent, obliged to put into our own harbours.

I do not mention the great numbers of the Prisoners we have taken, an Army of Prisoners, who, in truth, do us more harm at Land, then ever they did at Sea, and are a Charge that never fell under our estimate and computation: I would not be understood, that we had entered upon a War, and never thought of Prisoners, and sick and wounded men; but, that the Prisoners, and wounded men, should bring upon us so prodigious an expence, and of which we can yet see no bottom; insomuch, as in one place, I think *Colchester*, that charge comes to Twelve hundred pounds the week; I say, such an Expence never came into our computation.

The King tells you, He hath enabled the Prince & Bishop of *Munster* to demand Justice from those who have so notoriously oppressed him with such outrageous Circumstances of Insolence and Scorn, as are enough known to the World; and he hath demanded it bravely, in such an Equipage as hath not been made for little Money, in which he can take, as well as ask, satisfaction.

After all this, since there is a Justice due to the worst Enemies, We must do them this right, that they do not at all seem weary of the War; they do not discover the least inclination to Peace. It is true, the *French* King hath offered His Mediation: and truly, if he intends no more then a Mediation, it is an Office very worthy *The Most Christian King*; I wish with all my heart, that (as a Mediatour) he would make Equal Propositions, or that he would not so importunately press His Majesty to consent to those he makes, upon an Instance and Argument, that he holds himself engaged by a former Treaty (of which we never

never heard till since the beginning of this War, and had some reason to have presumed the contrary) to assist the *Dutch* with Men and Money, if His Majesty doth not consent.

His Majesty tells you, that He hath not an appetite to make War for War sake, but will be always ready to make such a Peace as may be for his Honour, and the Interest of His Subjects; and no doubt but it will be a great trouble and grief to him to find so great a Prince, towards whom he hath manifested so great an affection, in conjunction with his Enemies: yet even the apprehension of such a War will not terrifie him to purchase a Peace by such Concessions as he would be ashamed to make you acquainted with; of which nature you will easily believe the Propositions hitherto made to be, when you know that the Release of *Poleeroone* in the *East-Indies* and the demolishing the Fort of *Cabo-Corso* upon the Coast of *Guiny*, are two, which would be upon the matter to be content with a very vile Trade in the *East-Indies*, under their comptroll, and with none in *Guiny*. And yet these are not Propositions unreasonable enough to please the *Dutch*, who reproach *France* for Interposing for Peace, instead of Assisting them in the War; boldly Insisting upon the advantage the Contagion in *London* and some other parts of the Kingdom gives them, by which they confidently say, the King will be no longer able to maintain a Fleet against them at Sea; and as if God Almighty had sent this heavy visitation upon the Kingdom on their behalf, and to expose it to their malice and Insolence. They load us with such reproaches, as the civility of no other Language will admit the relation; the truth is, they have a Dialect of rudeness so peculiar to their Language and their People, that it is high time for all Kings and Princes to oblige them to some Reformation, if they intend to hold Correspondence or Commerce with them.

My Lords and Gentlemen, You see in what posture we stand with reference to our Neighbours abroad, who are our declared Enemies; their malice & activity to make others declare themselves so too; the great preparations they make, and even Declarations that they will have another Battel, towards which they have in readiness an equal number of new, greater, and better ships to those they have lost, furnished with larger and greater Artillery; so that if they were to be manned with any other Nation than their own, they might be worthy our apprehension. What preparations are to be made on our part, you can best judge. I have fully obeyed the Command that was laid upon me, in making you this plain, clear, true narrative of what hath passed; I have no Order to make any reflection upon it, nor any deduction from it: The King himself hath told you, that the noble unparalleled Supply you have already given him, is upon the matter spent, spent with all the Animadversions of good Husbandry, that the nature of the affair would bear. What is more to be done, He leaves intirely to your own Generous understandings; being not more assured of any thing that is to come in this world, than that the same Noble indignation for the Honor of the King and the Nation, that first provoked you to enflame the King himself, will continue the same passion still boyling in your Loyal Breasts, that all the world may see, which they hoped never to have seen, that never Prince and People were so intirely united in their Affections, for their true, joynt, inseparable Honor, as the onely sure infallible Expedient to preserve their distinct several Interest.

My Lords and Gentlemen, You have great reason to be weary; yet having onely presented you a short view of your Forreign Enemies, it may not be altogether unseasonable that you take a little prospect of those at home, those unquiet, restless Spirits in your own Bowels, upon whose Infidelity I doubt your Enemies abroad have more dependence then upon
their

their own Fleets. I must appeal to every one of your Observations, whether the countenances of those men have not appeared to you more erected, more insolent in all places since the beginning of this war, then they were before; in what readiness they were, if any misfortune had befallen the Kings Fleet (which they promised themselves) to have brought the Calamity into your Fields, and into your Houses, is notoriously known. The horrid Murth'ers of Our late Royal Master, have been received into the most secret Councils in *Holland*; and other infamous prostituted Persons of our Nation, are admitted to a share in the Conduct of their affairs, and maintain their Correspondence here upon liberal allowances and Pensions. Too many of His Majesties Subjects, who were lent by this Crown to assist & defend this ingrateful State against their enemies, have been miserably wrought upon, for the keeping a vile, mean Subsistence, rather then Livelihood, to renounce their Allegiance, and become enemies to their Native Countrey: Some of whom have wantonly put themselves on Board the Enemies Fleet, without Command or Office, purely out of appetite, and delight to rebel against their King, and to worry their Countrey: It is great pity these men should not be taught by some exemplary brand, that their Allegiance is not circumscribed within the four Seas; but that they have Obligations upon them of Duty, and Loyalty towards the King, in what part soever of the world they shall inhabit.

Their Friends at home, impatient of longer delays for the successes they had promised themselves, and for the Succours which others had promised to send to them, made no doubt of doing the business themselves, if they could appoint but a lucky day to begin the work; and you had heard of them in all places upon the third of the last moneth, their so much celebrated Third of September, if the great vigilance and indefatigable industry of the Good General, who is alwayes watchful for the Kings Safety, and the Peace of the Kingdom, had not two days before apprehended the Seditious Leaders, and given Advertisements for the securing others in most parts of the Kingdom, by the Confessions of many of whom, their wicked Design is enough manifested, and ready for Justice: Yet some of the Principal Persons are not yet taken, and some others got themselves rescued after they were apprehended.

My Lords and Gentlemen, Let it not, I beseech you, be said of us, what was heretofore said of the Senate of *Rome* when they were prosperous enough, and when they had obtained greater Victories over their enemies abroad then we have done, *Excellentibus ingenis cuius defuit ars, quid eveni repant, quam qua hostem perdidit*; Let not these Scorpions be kept warm in our bosoms till they sting us to death. Let not those who hate the Government, would destroy the Government, be sheltered under the Shadow and Protection of the Government. It is possible, and God knows it is but possible, that some men who are not friends to this or that part of the Government (for you are not to believe that they alwayes discover what they are in truth most angry with) who would not buy these Alterations they most desire, at the price of a Civil Waire; they would bring it fairly about, wait for a Godly Parliament, and do all by their consent; Yet those persons must not take it ill that we cannot desire they should ever have it in their Power to bring these Alterations to pass by those means they now seem to abhor: And I do heartily wish, I am sure they will not be the worse men, nor the worse Subjects for it, that they would a little reflect upon what is past, remember how much they have once done, more then they intended to have done, nay, what they did heartily abhor the thought of doing; and they will then find the only way to preserve themselves innocent, is to keep their minds from being vitiated by the first impressions, by Jealousies, Murmurings and Repinings; and above all, by the conversation with those men, or indulgence towards them, who would sacrifice the peace of the Kingdom to their own Ambition, Pride, and even to their Humour. If you carefully provide for the suppressing your enemies at home, which will put you to little other expence then of Courage, Constancy and Circumspection; You will find your enemies abroad less exalted, and in a short time more inclined to live in Amity with you, then to make War upon you, especially when they see you do in *bello pacis gerere negotium*, and that you take the carrying on the War to heart, as the best and the only expedient to produce a happy and an honest Peace.

FINIS.

